

# PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION SHEET

## SARS ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is a reportable disease in Massachusetts (in accordance with 105 CMR 300.000).

Isolation is the separation of a symptomatic person from the general population to prevent the spread of disease.

- o Isolation of a person for SARS should occur immediately upon the identification of a case of suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV infection.
- o Isolation should be implemented as described in the “General Infection Control Measures” fact sheet, available at [www.state.ma.us/dph](http://www.state.ma.us/dph).
- o A person with SARS must stay in isolation for 10 days after resolution of fever, given respiratory systems are absent or resolving, or until a diagnosis of SARS-CoV disease has been ruled out.

Quarantine is the separation and restriction of movements of persons who have been exposed to an infectious agent but are not yet ill. Individuals may be quarantined at home or in a hospital setting.

- o Regarding SARS, individuals with fever and/or respiratory symptoms who are hospitalized are considered to be symptomatic and subject to isolation.
- o For persons who are not hospitalized, persons who may be placed in quarantine include those who are:
  - Symptomatic: Individuals who have respiratory symptoms or fever, and are close contacts of a SARS-CoV case, or
  - Asymptomatic: Individuals who are close contacts of a SARS-CoV case during a significant community-wide outbreak.

More information about isolation and quarantine, including authority, when and how, and enforcement, is available in the *SARS Surveillance and Response Plan for Massachusetts*, and can be obtained by visiting [www.state.ma.us/dph](http://www.state.ma.us/dph), or by calling 617-983-6800. For information on how to legally prepare for SARS quarantine and isolation, see the “Command and Control” section of the CDC Preparedness and Response to SARS Plan available at [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/).

